

Message Text

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AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: RECENT BPP NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: FOUR RECENT BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) OPERATIONS, REPORTED IN THIS MESSAGE, PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE BPP ENGAGE. THE FIRST TWO OPERATIONS, BOTH AGAINST CARAVANS, ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST. THEY ILLUSTRATE THAT DESPITE THE PASSING OF THE DAYS WHEN LARGE CARAVANS WERE MOVING NARCOTICS IN THE BORDER AREAS, THE BPP IS STILL ENCOUNTERING WELL-PROTECTED, SMALLER CARAVANS. THE TRAFFICKERS USING THESE CARAVANS STILL OUTNUMBER AND OUTGUN THE THINLY SPREAD BPP NARCOTICS UNITS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 25, 1976, A SEVEN-MAN BPP TEAM PATROL ENCOUNTERED A SEVEN-HORSE CARAVAN WITH A 15-MAN ARMED ESCORT, TRAVELLING FROM BAN PHA SANG NUA (NC 8041) TO BAN HUAI RAI (NC 8641) IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE. WHEN THE TEAM STOPPED THE CARAVAN, COMMANDER FENG SHUN-HSI (6785/7311/3588) REFUSED TO PERMIT A SEARCH. THE TEAM REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE BPP COMMAND, WHICH ORDERED THE BPP 2ND COMPANY AND ANOTHER BPP TEAM TO COORDINATE AN INTERDICTION OPERATION SUPPORTED BY HELICOPTERS. THE PURSUIT FORCE WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE THE CARAVAN, BUT VILLAGERS INFORMED THEM THAT THE CARAVAN HAD DISPERSED IN THE AREA OF BAN KHA YAENG (NC 8541).

2. IN A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF BAN KHA YAENG, THE BPP

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SEIZED FOUR M-16'S , TWO CARBINES, AMMUNITION AND MAGAZINES

AND ONE FRAGMENTATION GRENADE. THE BPP UNCOVERED THE ARMS IN THE HOME OF NAI CHA DU, WHO CLAIMED HE WAS STORING THEM FOR ANOTHER MAN. THE BPP TURNED OVER THE SEIZED WEAPONS AND CHA DU TO THE PROVINCIAL POLICE.

(COMMENT; THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT, IN WHICH BPP TEAMS ARE FACED WITH SUPERIOR ARMS AND STRENGTH, IS NOT INFREQUENT AND ILLUSTRATES HOW THINLY BPP NARCOTICS UNITS CAN SOMETIMES BE STRETCHED. IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCE INTELLIGENCE, WHICH THE BPP COMMAND HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED WITH ITS PERSONNEL.)

3. ON APRIL 6, A THREE-MAN TEAM PATROL ENCOUNTERED A 20-PACKHORSE CARAVAN, PROTECTED BY 20 MEN, CARRING CHEMICALS ALONG A TRAIL NETWORK NORTHEAST OF BAN HUAI RAI (AT NC 8043), CHIANG RAI PROVINCE. IN AN ATTEMPTED INTERDICTION OF THE CARAVAN, A 15-MINUTE FIREFIGHT ENSUED BEFORE THE CARAVAN DISPERSED, LEAVING BEHIND TWO PACKHORSES AND SEVEN PACKS OF UNIDENTIFIED CHEMICALS. THE SEIZED CHEMICALS, WHICH CONSISTED OF 14 CANS OF UNIDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE LABELED "ICI", WERE TURNED OVER TO PROVINCIAL POLICE AUTHORITIES.

4. ACTING ON BPP INFORMATION, A JOINT BPP/PROVINCIAL POLICE/SNO OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED IN THE THAI CHAROEUN HOTEL IN CHIANG MAI ON APRIL 7. THE OPERATION RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF A SHAN FEMALE NAMED E-YE AND THE SEIZURE OF 37 GRAMS OF HEROIN.

5. ACTING ON INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE BPP, A JOINT BPP/PROVINCIAL POLICE/SNO OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED IN CHIANG MAI ON APRIL 7. POLICE CONFISCATED 15 KILOS OF OPIUM AND ARRESTED NAKHON IAMSONGKRAN, A BPP CORPORAL WHO IS ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT WITH THE CHIANG MAI INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS COMMAND. THE OPIUM HAD BEEN SENT FROM MAE HONG SON PROVINCE TO CHIANG MAI, VIA THE EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION, IN A PACKAGE ADDRESSED TO NAKHON FROM PHONPHAN SIRISON. NAKHON DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGE AND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE SENDER.

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(COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE BPP DEVELOPED THE INTELLIGENCE FOR BOTH OF THE SEIZURES ON APRIL 7, THE OPERATIONS WERE COORDINATED WITH THE PROVINCIAL POLICE AND SNO, WHO HAVE PRINCIPAL JURISDICTION IN THE CITY OF CHIANG MAI.)
WHITEHOUSE

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